THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) According to designated best use criteria of the Central Pollution Control Board for rivers, the desired water quality of Ganga in its stretch from Hardwar to Dakshineshwar, including at Sangam, should be 'outdoor bathing class' and not drinking class, as contested in the newsitem.

(c) and (d) The Central Pollution Control Board and Uttar Pradesh Pollution Control Board carry out water quality monitoring at Sangam. Besides this, a through Pollution Control Research Institute, Hardwar, for assessing the water quality during Kumbh Mela on mass bathing days was also instituted. The water quality monitoring results during Kumbh marginally exceed the prescribed standards in terms of Biochemical Oxygen demand and fecal coliform levels, which are attributed to intensive mass bathing during the Mela.

(e) Emergency works costing Rs. 5.38 crores were taken up to divert 90 million litres per day of sewage Salori Nalla, Ghaghar Nalla and Mori Gate Nalla outfalling into rivers Yamuna and Ganga at Allahabad. These works were completed just before the start of Kumbh. Industries discharging waste water directly or indirectly into river Ganga were directed to restrain from discharging waste water.

Yamuna Action Plan

241. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA:
SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a joint inspection by Central Pollution Control Board, the statutory environmental watchdog, and a public health body associated with Urban Development Ministry has confirmed that 1.3 billion litres of dirt flows into the Yamuna every day;

(b) whether it is also a fact that it has been reported by Government that cleaning operations in 21 towns along the banks of Yamuna had been taken up under the Rs. 5 billion Yamuna Action Plan, which was conceived six years ago and already Rs. 4.4 billion had been spent on the project; and

(c) if so, the reasons for which water shortages and pollution continue to be detected in the river water and the underground water in the area?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir. According to a joint inspection report of the Central Pollution Control Board of the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organisation of the Ministry of Urban Development conducted in October, 2000, about 1.3 billion litres of untreated sewage is discharged into the river Yamuna in Delhi everyday.

(b) and (c) A scheme of pollution abatement of Yamuna which is known as the Yamuna Action Plan was approved by the Government in April 1993. The present approved cost of the Action Plan is Rs. 509.54 crore. Under this Plan, Works have been taken up in 21 towns out of which 8 towns are in Uttar Pradesh and 12 towns in Haryana besides Delhi. The Plan includes such works as interception and diversion of sewge, sewage treatment plants, low cost toilets, crematoria and river front development. So far, an expenditure of Rs. 446.04 crore has been incurred on this Plan. The Delhi component of Yamuna Action Plan is small comprising 2 sewage treatment plants each of 10 million liters per day capacity and one electric crematorium. The Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is implementing the major part of pollution abatement programme of Yamuna out of their own plan funds. Under this programme, 14 additional sewage treatment plants along with allied works are to be constructed.Out of these, 9 treatment plants have already been completed and another 5 will be completed by March 2003. In addition, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi is also to construct 15 common effluent treatment plants to treat

industrial effluents from 21 industrial estates of Delhi. This Project is under implementation and will be completed by December, 2002. Under the directions of the Supreme Court, additional steps have been taken by the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi to close down polluting industries. Under the directions of a High Power Committee set up under the chairmanship of Member (environment), Planning Commission on minimum flow in river Yamuna, all the riparian States except Delhi have started releasing their respective share of water for maintaining 10 cumecs of minimum flow in Yamuna along Delhi. The water quality of Yamuna can be expected to improve only after all the common effluent treatment plants and sewage treatment plants are constructed and commissioned and pollution from other industries is effectively monitored and controlled.

Financial grants to Rajasthan

†242. DR. MAHESH CHANDRA SHARMA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the amount provided by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 to the Rajasthan Government as grant and the details of items, programme projects of any other special head under which the same had been given; and

(b) whether the Rajasthan Government has timely submitted expenditure account to the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The amount provided during 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 to the Rajasthan Government as grant and the details of item are given in the statement (see below).

(b) Grants are released to Rajasthan Government after details of expenditure are received.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.